

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Health Federation of Philadelphia

Application ID: 13ED147925

Program Name: National Health Corps

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant describes their target population of economically disadvantaged and medically underserved individuals, and how these groups greatly overlap. They also discuss how these characteristics are far more prevalent and debilitating in communities of color. They delineate their experience in previously serving these populations and communities as explanation for their selection of a comparable target population for this grant.

(+) The applicant cites national and some local (Allegheny County Survey) research documenting the lack of insurance coverage for low income and minority populations documenting the severity of the need.

(+) The applicant describes barriers in these communities to accessing health services, which further compounds the problem for the target population; some of these are transportation, and the complexity of understanding enrollment, and cost. They additionally discuss the system navigation bewilderment for those new to the process; these barriers convert minor issues which can be handled at the prevention level to very complex issues of chronic or advanced illness.

(+) The applicant addressed selection rationale for their selected population annotating that the uninsured are less likely to receive preventive care and more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been prevented.

(+) The three-week training for Members has a comprehensive curriculum with a balance of classroom and field sessions that will provide Members with the skills they need to perform tasks in the various activity areas.

(+) The Member duties are clearly explained with specific examples of the tasks to be performed in each of the activity areas. .

(+) The applicant indicates that the AmeriCorps members will supplement recruitment, enrollment and orientation functions for the host organizations. The Members will conduct outreach activities and directly support individuals in their search for and affiliation with health care resources; overall, they will help the host sites fulfill their organizational missions.

- (+) The applicant describes the impact and overall change that they expect to achieve through the implementation of the project. They list both the numbers of individuals to be affected through the program and the potential cost savings to be achieved. The program design suggests that the AmeriCorps investment will achieve the desired results. Some of these expectations are derived from previous program performance results
- (+) The external evaluation methodology will provide data describing the impact of Members on consumers compared to consumers who were not availed the AmeriCorps services.
- (+) The financial impact of Members enrolling residents in Philadelphia is being measured through the City Health budget which attests a savings of \$31 for every \$1 invested.
- (-) At times the discussion moves between race and poverty; even though these characteristics are correlated, the narrative is sometimes difficult to follow because of this.
- (-) The applicant noted that identifiable roles and responsibilities will help host sites expand their capacity to provide outreach, enrollment, navigation, care management and health education services to support access to and effective use of preventive and health management services by underserved populations. Though this is specified, the applicant did not provide sufficient detail about which Member or the number of Members allocated to perform these roles/responsibilities.
- (-) The applicant does not address in the narrative privacy and confidentiality concerns surrounding HIPPA requirements. The Members will be assigned to call patients who have specific medical diagnoses but the applicant does not discuss the process by which these non-medical personnel can have access to the information and discuss it with the patients.
- (-) The applicant provides information on numbers of people that will be assisted in the community but does not detail the results. Therefore the goal to enroll people in programs does not adequately show measurable community impact that would explain the impact of the AmeriCorps investment.